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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MANAMA 001083

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SUBJECT: CODEL MORAN MEETINGS WITH PM AND CENTRAL BANK  
GOVERNOR

Classified By: Ambassador Adam Ereli for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

- 1.(C) Summary: Bahrain's Prime Minister told Codel Moran November 29 (before the release of the new National Intelligence Estimate) that he believed
- 2.(U) Representatives James Moran, Tom Davis, and Steve Chabot visited Bahrain on November 29 and met with Prime Minister Khalifa bin Salman Al
- 3.(C) Responding to questions from Representatives Moran and Davis on Iran, Prime Minister Khalifa bin Salman Al-Khalifa said that he believed
- 4.(C) Turning to other issues, the PM agreed that the Free Trade Agreement was a symbol of the strong relationship between the U.S. and Bahrain
- 5.(C) Throughout his remarks, the PM stressed the importance of direct communication. He commented that even as technological advances allow us
- 6.(C) Bahrain Central Bank Governor Rashid Al-Miraj told Codel Moran that the GOB has concluded that reliance on cheap, imported labor is not sustainable
- 7.(C) Al-Miraj responded to a question from Rep. Davis on speculation that some Gulf governments may abandon the dollar peg by stating flatly that
- 8.(C) Rep. Chabot asked whether governments in the region are genuinely concerned that the price of oil is too high. Al-Miraj assured him that
- 9.(C) Responding to a question from Rep. Davis about Iran's role in the local economy, Al-Miraj said that the real player is Saudi Arabia. While
- 10.(U) Codel Moran did not have an opportunity to clear this message. \*\*\*\*\* Visit Embassy Manama